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REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 28 and 31-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-27 were previously cancelled, and claims 6-7, 11-21 and 29-30 are cancelled herein. Claim 28 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 28 and dependent claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higashiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,128, hereinafter "Higashiguchi"), in view of Joshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,731,003, hereinafter "Joshi"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

More specifically, the independent claim 28 clearly requires a compliant base element. None of the references of record even suggest much less teach such a compliant base element. It is noted that the Examiner alleged in the September 22, 2006 Office Action that Nishiyama discloses a compliant base element, and also alleged in the most recent (December 12, 2006) Office Action that Higashiguchi discloses a compliant base element. Applicant disagrees and respectfully requests that the Examiner explain how the solder bumps 21 of Nishiyama or the solder bumps 21, 22 or 23 of Higashiguchi can be compliant base elements. It is also noted that several of the figures of Higashiguchi show conductive lands (24, 25 and 26) (see column 8, lines 22-23 and column 10, lines 33-36) under the solder bumps. However, conductive lands are typically made of metal or metal alloys, and there is nothing in the specification of Higashiguchi to even suggest that these lands are made of a compliant material.

In addition, claim 28 has now been amended to require a bond pad to be laterally spaced from its associated functional 3-D structure and that a reroute trace extend between the two to provide an electrical connection in a manner similar to that of allowed claim 1.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone James C. Kesterson, Applicant's attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

9 March 07  
Date

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